

Remarks

This Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action. Applicants appreciate the Examiner's consideration of the Application. In order to advance prosecution of this Application, Applicants have responded to each notation by the Examiner. Claims 1, 2, 7, 11-14, and 22 have been amended. Claims 3, 6, 9, and 26 are cancelled. Claim 21 is withdrawn. Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10-20, 22-25, and 27-31 are pending. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and favorable action in this case.

Rejections Under Section 102

The Examiner rejects Claims 1, 4, 7, 8, 13, 14, 18, 19, 22, 24, 25, and 27-31 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,770,135 to Hobbs, et al. ("*Hobbs*"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection. Nevertheless, in order to advance prosecution, Applicants have amended the Claim 1 to recite limitations from Claim 3, which the Examiner indicated contained allowable subject matter. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that Claim 1 and all claims depending therefrom (e.g., Claims 4, 5 and 15-20) are allowable over the cited art. Claim 7 has been amended to recite the limitations from allowable Claim 9. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that Claim 9 and all claims depending therefrom (e.g., Claims 8 and 10) are allowable over the cited art. Similarly, Claim 22 has been amended to recite the limitations from allowable Claim 26. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that Claim 22 and all claims depending therefrom (e.g., Claims 23-25 and 27-31) are allowable over the cited art.

In a similar manner, the elements of Claims 1 and 2 (indicated as allowable) have been combined in amended Claim 2. And the elements of Claims 7 have been incorporated into both Claims 11 and 12, each of which were indicated as allowable. Claims 13 and 14 have been amended to depend from Claim 12.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's statement that Claims 2, 3, 5, 9-12, 15-17, 20, 23, and 26 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have amended all claims so that they directly, or by

way of base or intervening claims, include elements from one or more of the allowable claims. It is believed that the amendments place each claim in allowable form by way of the incorporation of elements from allowable dependent claims. Applicants therefore respectfully request withdrawal of all rejections.

Conclusion

Applicants have made an earnest attempt to place this case in condition for allowance. For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully request full allowance of all the pending claims.

Applicants hereby take an Extension of Time for filing a Response to Office Action for three (3) months from August 7, 2007 to November 7, 2007. Please charge Deposit Account No. 02-0384 an amount of \$525.00 to satisfy the extension fee of 37 C.F.R. §1.17(a)(1).

With the addition of new independent claims, a filing fee of \$420.00 is due. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the additional filing fee of \$420.00 and any other deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-0384 of BAKER BOTTS L.L.P.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would advance prosecution of this case in any way, the Examiner is invited to contact Jay B. Johnson, the Attorney for Applicants, at the Examiner's convenience at (214) 953-6431.

Respectfully submitted,

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